Out of the ashes comes hope for RIC students linked to Station fire

by Jane Fusco
What’s News Editor

Two RIC students affected by the Station fire receive the first scholarship awards from the Michael "Doc" Gonsalves ’86 Scholarship Fund.

To his many radio listeners, he was The Doc. To his many friends, he was Gonzo. To the College community, he was a beloved alumnus and a prominent presence on the campus. To Rhode Island College students Gina Mattera and Michael Iannone, he is someone they’ve never met – and never will – but will help them achieve their dream of a college education.

Mattera and Iannone are the first recipients of cash awards from the Michael J. Gonsalves ’86 Scholarship Endowment Fund, established at the College by Gonsalves’ friends and family shortly after his death in West Warwick’s Station nightclub fire on February 20, 2003. The Station nightclub fire claimed the lives of 100 patrons and injured several hundred others. It is considered the worst disaster in the state’s history.

The scholarship is intended for RIC students affected in some way by the Station fire. Mattera’s sister, Tammy Mattera-Housa, also died in the fire. Mattera’s family has been hit with financial difficulties, almost forcing Gina, a sophomore communications major, to quit school. The Doc scholarship provided her with money to pay for books and course materials so she can stay in school.

Iannone, a senior education major, is a fire survivor, who was hospitalized at Mass. General for five months with third degree burns over his face and back, and lost a hand and an ear. He has undergone 30 surgeries. Iannone’s doctors advised him against working in a computer lab for health risks, so he had to buy a laptop for coursework. The Doc scholarship funded that purchase for him.

Once Gonsalves was confirmed dead, his friends, many of whom were his Kappa Delta Phi fraternity brothers at RIC, met at a pub in Providence to give Gonsalves a final sendoff the way only friends could, when the idea for a scholarship took hold.

“We wanted some sort of vehicle to keep his memory alive and make sure he could still affect people’s lives in the future,” said Thom Weiner.

Continued on page 6

Expanded MFA theatre program features renewed ties to Trinity Rep

by Rob Martin
What’s News Managing Editor

Rhode Island College’s Master of Fine Arts theatre program is back on track – three tracks, actually – and better than ever, now that students will be able to earn degrees in specialized areas of theatre, in association with Providence’s Trinity Repertory Company and Brown University.

The proposal to restructure RIC’s graduate theatre program was approved by the state Board of Governors for Higher Education on January 26. The authorization capped two years of “careful deliberation, negotiation and planning,” said Richard Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at RIC.

“The revised MFA is a beacon in the region that signifies the importance of the role of liberal arts at Rhode Island College – especially its creativity and strength,” added Weiner.

The newly designed theatre program will offer three different tracks of study for a degree: Stage Management, Technical Theatre, and Performance & Society. The first two tracks will be offered to students through the Trinity Rep Consortium that includes RIC, Trinity Rep, and Brown University. The third track

Continued on page 6
The Café will be the venue for the Coffeehouse Series of acoustic performers each Wednesday at 12:30 in the afternoon when RIC students and friends have the chance to show off their musical talents. Patrons will receive a complimentary cup of coffee at each performance.

The original opening date for the Café was to be September 2003. Construction setbacks delayed the opening to the beginning of this semester. The Café’s location on the bottom floor of the Student Union was the former home of the famed Rathskeller pub until it closed its doors in 1986 in favor of the CoffeeGround. The CoffeeGround closed in 2002 when renovations to the Student Union started.

“Without exception, people were very pleased with the addition of the Café,” said Penfield.
The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship will be awarded annually to a full professor who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship, and collegial service. The professor must have been a full professor for at least six years of service at Rhode Island College. Individuals (including those with a PhD or FSEHD/SSW Thorp award) are eligible for a second Thorp Professorship after an interim of at least ten years.

SPEAKING OF WRITING: Peter Elbow, author and professor emeritus at UMass, Amherst, addresses the annual Faculty Development Workshop on January 14.

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The criteria for the Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship are below:

For 2004-2005, the Thorp Professorship, the deadline for nominations is February 19, 2004. Nominated individuals will be requested to submit their supporting material by March 1, 2004. The Selection Committee will make its recommendation on or about May 1, 2004.

The Call for Nominations will occur on or about October 1 each year (deadline for nominations is on or about May 15). The submission of supporting material will be on or about the following October 1. The Committee will make its recommendation by February 15. The recipient of the award will be announced at the academic year opening ceremony (President’s address to the College community).

The Call for Nominations will be made by the chair of the Thorp Professorship Selection Committee. Nominations may be made by any member of the College community and may be submitted to any member of the Selection Committee. Eligible nominees will be notified of their nomination by the chair of the Selection Committee and provided with the criteria and deadline information. The names of those nominated will be kept confidential. As material is submitted to the chair of the Selection Committee the members of the Selection Committee will be informed and may request further details. The deliberations of the Selection Committee will be confidential.

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Our Florida luncheons and visits were very successful. We managed to visit with almost 120 alumni in the West Palm Beach and Ft. Myers areas. (See photos on right.)

President Nazarian and Vice President for Development and College Relations Peg Brown spoke about the Capital Campaign and brought the alumni and friends an update on the changes on campus, highlighted in a short film which also gave a brief history of the College.

Many alumni spoke of the exceptional education they experienced while students at the College.

We anticipate our RIC on the Road events will continue to attract alumni and friends for our Sesquicentennial celebration.

On March 9 we will visit Washington, DC and April 7 we’ll be in New York City, followed by a trip to San Diego on April 17.

For details, call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086 or visit the College web site at www.ric.edu.

A clear sky, hot cocoa and two hours of swooshing down a quick snow-slicked track... it was a perfect night for winter fun on February 5 at Yawgoo Valley Ski Area.

The Young Alumni Group sponsored their first-ever snow tubing night which was enjoyed by 40 alumni, staff and friends of the College. All the kids – and kids at heart – had a great time.

Members of the Class of 1954 at Sanibel resort (l to r) Nancy Welch Goulet, Corinne O’Brien Murphy, President John Nazarian and Lillian Connelly DeGulio.

The Class of 1947 had a great turn-out in Fort Myers. Pictured left to right: Mary Holton Mckeeney, Alice Bigbee Goulet, Lee Clancy Breig, Marion McCarthy Rooney and Ellen Fay Shannon.

New Alumni Directory available

The 2004 Rhode Island College Alumni Directory has been completed as displayed (at left) by Ellie O’Neill, Alumni Affairs director.

If you are one of the several thousand alumni who placed an order for a directory or the CD-ROM, shipment is underway from The Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc.

If you have questions about the directory, such as when you can expect to receive your copy, or billing inquiries, or would like to place an order, please feel free to call Harris Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-877-6554 or email inquiry@bcharrispub.com.
Sesquicentennial Memories

The General Assembly votes to re-establish the Rhode Island Normal School

During the course of the College’s Sesquicentennial observance, Michael Smith, assistant to the president, periodically contributes to What’s News at Rhode Island College a brief glimpse of an historic college event that occurred at some point in the institution’s history corresponding to the publication date of that particular edition of What’s News. This is the 12th installment.

On Tuesday, February 28, 1871, State Education Commissioner Thomas W. Bicknell ventured to the Old State House on Benefit Street to hear the State Senate debate a measure to re-establish the Rhode Island Normal School, which had ceased operations in July of 1865. What Bicknell did not know was that he had been called upon to lead the debate on the floor of the Senate, then, as in the years since, an extraordinarily rare occurrence.

In a third-person narrative, Bicknell himself describes this event in his 1911 book, The Story of the Rhode Island Normal School.

At 11 a.m., Commissioner Bicknell left his office for the Senate chamber in the old State House, to listen to the debate on the bill. Taking his seat in the lobby, he waited the hour of debate.

At 12:30 p.m., Governor Palford announced that the bill for a Normal School was the special order of the day, and called on the secretary of state, Joshua M. Addlemann, to read the bill.

After its reading, Sidney M. Dean, Senator from Warren, rose and said: “Mr. President and Senators, we have come to the hour for consideration and action on one of the most important measures of the session; a measure of vital interest to all the people of Rhode Island, in that it has to do with the education of teachers, who are to aid in the education of our children.

There is a gentleman in the Senate chamber, who is the leader in the movement for a State Normal School, and who is familiar with the arguments in favor far beyond the members of this body.

I refer to Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell, our Commissioner of Public Schools.

I move, Mr. President, that the Honorable Commissioner be invited to address the Senate on the bill now before this body, and to that end, that the Senate now take a recess, to reconvene after his address.

Senator Dean’s motion was seconded and passed and the Senator, in response for the assembled students, and Governor Palford invited Mr. Bicknell to address the Senate from the president’s platform.

The Commissioner was surprised by this most unusual, unprecedented and most unexpected turn of affairs, while the high compliment overcame the surprise, and decision and action were immediate.

Mr. Bicknell spoke over an hour, setting forth in the strongest arguments at his command, the reason for establishing a Normal School in Rhode Island. At the close of his address, questions were asked by several Senators as to the features of the bill, among which were the amount of the appropriation, the conditions of the bill, the number of teachers, probable number of pupils, etc.

Senator Powell, of Newport, while questioning took occasion to state his position, and his early objections to a Normal School in Rhode Island, as intimated in the quotation from his letter.

It was one o’clock when Governor Palford called the Senate to resume its session, and without debate. Senator Dean, of Warren, moved the passage of the bill, which was seconded by several Senators, and on a viva voce vote, no Senator voting against the bill, the Governor declared the bill passed by unanimous vote.

At this point, Senator Nathaniel Peckham, of South Kingstown, stated that he wished to make some remarks on the bill, and would like to have it laid on the table until the next morning.

In courtesy to the Senator, the bill was so disposed of, and at the next session, the Senator said he had decided not to speak upon the bill, and on motion of Senator Dean, it was passed by the Rhode Island Senate, by an unanimous vote, March 1, 1871.

The measure would be transmitted to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where it would be unanimously recommended by the Committee on Education and subsequently passed unanimously by the full House, becoming law on March 15, 1871, along with an appropriation of $10,000 for the first year of operations.

On March 16, 1871, The Providence Journal editorialized thusly:

“The friends of common schools will rejoice to see the project of establishing a...”


RJC student body reflects the faces of Rhode Island

Who are the "typical" Rhode Island College students? Where do they come from, what level of academic preparation do they bring, and how do they gain admission? Each fall, more than 80 percent of the students who join us are from Rhode Island. The rest are from Massachusetts, Connecticut and other states throughout the country. We accept a small number of students from foreign countries.

Two-thirds of our students are female and most of our students are of traditional college age. More than half are first generation college students. Eighty-five percent are white. The remaining 15 percent are Hispanic, black, Asian-American/Pacific Islanders, American-Indian/Alaskan Natives, and those who categorize themselves as "other" (usually students who check more than one racial category or none at all). Not surprisingly, English is not the native language for our international students. The reported median family income for our students is slightly higher at $55,400.

Those are the tangible statistics. The intangibles are that Rhode Island College students are committed, competent individuals who are determined to succeed in college despite the language and cultural microchallenges that many of them face every day. The challenge for the Admissions Office is to review and determine if Rhode Island College is the right fit for each applicant’s credentials.

There are several admission programs that are designed to provide an opportunity for qualified students to gain admission. The major- ity of students join us through the Traditional Admission program. This is the student who is a good solid citizen in high school, someone who consistently applied himself/herself throughout the high school experience, the result being an overall achievement of a class rank in the top 50 percent and a 3.0 GPA. Other programs for admission include the Honors Program, the Presidential Scholarship Program, and the Feinstein Scholarship Program.

A small percentage of our students who fall just short of our traditional admission requirements join us via one of our Alternative Admission programs: The Preparatory Enrollment Program (Rhode Island students only), Performance Based Admissions program (older students), Provisional Admission (low achievement – high SAT-I), Conditional (an obvious weakness must be addressed and strong in other areas).

Approximately 40 percent of the students we enroll each fall are transfer students, most from the Community College of Rhode Island. If the University of Rhode Island have an articulation agreement with CCC. Students who meet the requirements of the articulation agreement are guaranteed admission to RIC.

The College also works in conjunction with several high school programs to attract qualified inner city and racial/ethnic minority students, such as the Upward Bound (TRIO Program), Mount Pleasant Teacher Academy (collaboration between Providence School Department/RIC/City, Educational Talent Search (TRIO Program), and Children’s Crusade (Gear Up, a funded mentor program).

So, who are the typical Rhode Island College students? They are a microcosm of the larger society. They are students who go on to graduate and graduate school, and distinguish themselves by working in the fields of medicine, education, politics, technology, fine and performing arts, and a host of other areas. They are our parents, our brothers and sisters, our friends, our children...they are you and I.

They are the faces of Rhode Island.

(Not just) academically speaking

State Normal School has been received with so much favor, and will watch its further progress with profound interest. Its successful finality must be regarded a signal triumph of the cause of popular education in our State, and the assured precursor of better teachers and better schools.”

by Deborah Johnson

Associate Director of Admissions

GOV. THOMAS W. BICKNELL

Gonsalves
Continued from page 1

Cahir ‘89, a longtime friend of Gonsalves.

A scholarship in his name was the perfect way to do this, said Cahir. “Mike was a fixture on the campus for many years. Even after he graduated, he would sing RIC’s praises on his radio show, visit the (campus) radio station and mentor the disc jockeys, and attend fraternity meetings,” Cahir said.

Cahir said that Gonsalves was “generous to a fault,” often treating his friends to tickets to sporting events or lavishing gifts on their children. “The scholarship is another way that Mike just keeps on giving,” Cahir added.

Artie Tefft, another close friend of Gonsalves, agreed. He said his family misses Gonsalves and always will. “Something happens every day to remind me of him, and I’m sure that will continue for years to come.”

Gonsalves’ father, Neil Gonsalves, is a professor of biology at the College. He said that he and his family are very happy that his son’s friends took charge of the project and sustained his memory in this way, and hopes the scholarship will become an annual award.

“I think it’s wonderful that we can get this (scholarship) off the ground so quickly, and that we are taking care of our own students,” Neil Gonsalves said. He added that though the scholarship is intended for students somehow connected to the fire, eventually there will be no more of these people in need, and it will be given to communications students.

The Doc Fund, established by Clear Channel Radio, which owns WHY, the radio station where Gonsalves was employed, contributes one third of the funds it collects to RIC’s Gonsalves scholarship fund. The remainder of that money goes to the Station Nightclub Fire Relief Fund to help support fire victims and their families.

A week after the fire, Gonsalves’ fraternity brothers trudged through ice and falling snow to paint the rock on College Road with the words, “In memory of Gonzo,” a stark reminder that their friend would not be returning to the campus.

“He was the best friend anyone could ever have,” said Cahir. He said that if Mike were alive, he would tell students not to forget where you came from.

According to his friends, Mike never did.

Five-year State Improvement Grant receives funding for second year

Rhode Island College’s Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities received $600,075 from the state Department of Education as part of a five-year State Improvement Grant awarded to Rhode Island by the U.S. Department of Education in 2002. The funding is for the period November 1, 2003 to October 31, 2004.

This project, now in its second year, is a “collaboration of state agencies, higher education, schools, family organizations, leadership organizations, and others,” said Anthony Antosh, director of the Sherlock Center.

The goals of the State Improvement Grant are (1) To ensure that all students with disabilities are taught by highly qualified teachers; (2) To expand the opportunities available to children with disabilities to participate in the general curriculum and to improve performance of these children on state assessments and other outcome measures; and (3) To develop and inform educational leaders who will facilitate the participation and progress of children with disabilities in the general curriculum.

Unusual delicacies on the menu at the Phylum Party, set for March 25

The Biology Department, with the support of the Biology Club and other interested biology students, is sponsoring a Phylum Party on Thursday, March 25 in the Fogarty Life Science Biology Laboratory, 7:30-11 p.m. Chef Frank Terranova of Johnson & Wales University, and NBC10’s Cooking Show will be the special guest judge.

This party offers the opportunity to sample morsels of food from many different and unusual phyla, including the kingdom of Protista and the Fungi. The cost for faculty, staff and parents is $10; students $5; and administrators $20. Tickets must be purchased by March 18, through the Biology Department office in Fogarty Life Science room 252 (401- 456-0100). Proceeds from this event go to support biology student awards, prizes and scholarships.

MFA program
Continued from page 1

of RIC, Trinity Rep’s Education Department, Perishable Theatre, The Providence Black Repertory Theatre, and AS220.

Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Rep, noted that the MFA program is a “direct continuation of mixing professional theatre with academic theatre – mixing them into a curriculum of incredible achievement, expanding and enhancing options.”

In a letter of support to the College, Mark J. Lerman, artistic director of Perishable Theatre, said, “I congratulate the faculty and leadership of the Arts and Sciences at Rhode Island College for their vision and commitment to this innovative and groundbreaking new program.”

Beginning in September of 2004, Performance & Society MFA classes will be offered. Stage Management and Technical Theatre MFA classes will start in September of 2005. Each degree option will take three years to complete.

Performance & Society is a conservatory-style professional acting and directing program that also focuses on the role of theatre in the community. Students will intern in Providence theatres and help produce programs in schools and local groups. In addition, students can obtain provisional certification to teach K-12 theatre and eventually qualify for a five-year certification.

“The Performance & Society program will provide graduate students from all over the country the opportunity to learn how to use their artistic talents with work individuals in the public schools, rehabilitation centers, senior centers, prisons, half-way houses, or wherever their potential may lead them,” said P. William Hutchinson, professor of theatre. Hutchinson had, until recently, coordinated the graduate theatre program at RIC for 22 years.

Students in the Stage Management and Technical Theatre programs will learn to write, direct, perform in, manage and design complete professional productions. And as part of the Trinity Rep Consortium, they will interact with the acting and directing components of Brown’s program. Both programs will include courses in drama history and literature.

Stage Management candidates will also study labor issues and public policy, while those in Technical Theatre will be taught drafting, structural design and theatre and performance history.

RIC’s affiliation with Trinity Rep dates back to 1982, when the two institutions developed an Independent Masters Degree program. By 1994, the program evolved into a MFA degree program in theatre. As of May 2003, RIC had graduated approximately 60 IMA students, 56 MFA directing students and seven MFA directing students.

Now, after being absent for the 2003-04 academic year, the MFA in theatre program is back and “greater than ever,” said Weiner. “It not only fully constitutes Oskar Eustis’ vision of a consortium, but also, in establishing the Downtown Theatre Collaborative, creates a unique graduate program centered around the emerging schools and communities,” he said. “This will be the most directed effort of this kind in the USA.”

Student recruitment for RIC’s new MFA theatre program is already underway. For information, contact Richard Weiner at 456-0107 or rweiner@ric.edu.
Decision 2004: RIC students get ‘up close and personal’ with presidential candidates in New Hampshire

by David Cranshaw ’05
What’s News Intern

Rhode Island College students got a firsthand look at the presidential campaigns of the democratic hopefuls and experienced the excitement leading up to the first primary in the nation in 2004 in New Hampshire.

Nine students visited New Hampshire January 22-25 to hear the candidates’ final attempts to persuade voters before the primary on January 27.

“It was a chance to take the theory and discussion from the classroom to reality,” said Kay Israel, associate professor of communications, who accompanied the students on the trip. “It is one thing to look at a topic under a microscope, it is another to experience it.”

The excursion offered students the opportunity to explore retail politics, said Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications, who planned the trip.

“The New Hampshire Primary and the Iowa Caucus provides a unique opportunity to see the political process up close and personal. In the contests following, the media controls much of the coverage, and it’s less likely that citizens have the opportunity to interact with candidates.”

After traveling around the state, the students determined that voter apathy would not be an issue in this election.

“Seeing hundreds of people wanting to hear candidates speak shows me that Americans are still passionate about politics,” said junior political science major Diane Ascencao.

“I loved how everywhere you went people knew who the candidates were and asked for your opinions,” said sophomore communications major Nicole Giambusso.

Students who went to New Hampshire will take their knowledge of the political process to area high schools to educate future voters. Displays will be erected around the RIC campus to showcase 2004 election memorabilia. Those in Whipple Hall, Adams Library and Gaige Hall will showcase campaign buttons, signs, bumper stickers and pictures from the New Hampshire primary.

This was not the first time this election year that RIC students got a look at the 2004 election process in New Hampshire. Twenty-two students attended College Convention 2004 at New England College in Manchester from January 7-10 to hear candidates appeal to the younger generation. RIC was the only school in Rhode Island that was represented at the conference.

Seven of the then-nine major Democratic candidates spoke to the contingent of about 600 high school and college students representing 38 states. The candidates included senators John Kerry (Massachusetts), and John Edwards (North Carolina), former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Representative Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), Senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut), retired General Wesley Clark and former Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun. (Lieberman, Clark and Braun have since left the race.)

“We want to promote greater civic awareness and engagement among young people,” said Wayne Lesperance, co-director of the convention.

Some RIC students received face time from local and national media outlets. PBS interviewed juniors William Senecal, Robert Kalaskowski and April Arnold for a documentary on the impact of third-party candidates on the presidential election. Kalaskowski also talked to a reporter from the Baltimore Sun, to voice his support for Clark.

Sophomore Michael Philbin spoke to politicsNHL.com about the role religion played in politics. Senior Jennifer Demers and Arnold were part of a piece that ran on College Sports Television (CSTV) that tied sports to politics. They were asked to identify the candidate they supported and to choose a sport the candidate would play if not involved in politics.

“The convention allowed students with all different morals, values and beliefs to come together to have the opportunity to appreciate and better understand politics and make the best decision possible to vote for president of the United States,” said Arnold.

Lesperance said he hoped the participants would gain a greater awareness of the issues that affect them and the ability to interact with those candidates who seek the highest office in the land.

The two trips were a continuation of a course taught jointly in the fall semester by Endress and Israel. The class, “Communication and the 2004 Presidential Campaign: Surfacing to the Primary,” let students follow a candidate for the semester and become their alter-ego.

Each student chose a candidate to cover for the semester and ended the course with a presentation acting as that candidate’s political consultant, offering ideas and suggestions to improve the campaign.

The course is continuing this semester, now focusing on “Convention to Election.” Victor Proaufghi, professor of political science, will join Endress and Israel in teaching the course.

Plans are in progress to visit the Democratic and Republican national conventions this summer, to be held in Boston and New York respectively.
Black History Month...

Unity Center seeks to enhance RIC’s multicultural experience

Aaron Bruce describes RIC’s Unity Center as the “cultural hub of the campus community.” As the center’s recently appointed director, he’s working to encourage greater understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity on campus.

Bruce, who is from Princeton, New Jersey, joined the College on January 5. He brings two aspects of his previous work history that he intends to apply in his new role: the business wisdom gained working in international marketing for corporations, and his having worked most recently in a community college in his home state, which, like RIC, has a large commuter student population.

He said that his business experience in particular will be helpful in the marketing and fund-raising activities needed for the job. His background will also aid in establishing new mentoring programs with corporations, he added.

This month, The Unity Center is busy promoting the College’s celebration of Black History Month with a full schedule of events related to the African American experience (see below right). In the spring, the Diversity in Technology Luncheon Series will debut, focusing on ways that underrepresented groups can become a part of the technology field.

Two major events are planned for October - a Sister-to-Sister Conference on leadership for women of color, and an African American and Hispanic leadership conference for males. These companion events are open to college and high school students. Both will feature workshops on empowerment, business etiquette, building relationships and more.

Bruce is currently creating a cultural resource room in The Unity Center. A one-stop information shop, it will contain books, magazines, CDs and art related to multiculturalism. Students will also be able to find listings of various diversity conferences and meetings and explore scholarship opportunities for minorities.

To make sure The Unity Center is providing the latest, best and most comprehensive services available, Bruce is working with a national multicultural center accreditation program. “We’re looking at monitoring program standards so we know where we should be setting our goals,” he explained.

One issue centrally important to Bruce is retention. “Although there is a wide diversity of students being accepted at RIC, not all are graduating,” he said. To that end, he wants to make students feel more “comfortable” in their academic and social experience at RIC. He is also interested in research involving the use of overseas study as a retention tool.

With all the activity taking place in The Unity Center, Bruce said he was grateful for the seven work-study students who assist in making the organization run. They help coordinate programs, research the internship database, provide design work for the website and other graphic projects, and help to plan conferences and workshops.

“The thread that runs through the Unity Center is leadership and global understanding,” said Bruce. “It’s important that all students work in harmony with others, with people who have different backgrounds than their own.”

The Unity Center is located in the Donovan Dining Center, Lower Level

(401) 456-8791
abruce@ric.edu

Upcoming events in conjunction with Black History Month

Feb 16
Remember the Titans - Movie and Discussion
Moderators: Thomas Lavin and Aaron Bruce; Student Union Ballroom; 4-6 p.m.; free

Feb 18
Black History Month Extravaganza – Step Performance, Poetry Speakers, Free Food, Music and Dance Performance
Student Union Ballroom, 6 p.m.; (Harambee), free

“Youth HIV Prevention Through Theater” – a Performance by Project Ujama; Student Union Ballroom, 12:30-2 p.m.; free

Comedy – Featuring Retta
Student Union Café; (Programming Board); 8 p.m.; free

Feb 19
Hip Hop Story of Rome & Jezus
Rennie Harris’ PureMovement; Performing Arts Series; Auditorium in Roberts Hall; 8 p.m.; reserved seating $26 (discounts for students/seniors)

Feb 23
The 15th Annual Gospel Music Praise Ensemble – In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center; 7 p.m.; $3

Every Sunday
Capoeira Demonstration – Learn the Ancient Techniques of Afro Brazilian Martial Arts
(Rhode Island College Capoeira Association-RICCA); Student Union Ballroom, 8 p.m.; free

Black History Knowledge Contest – Big Prizes!
Contact the Unity Center at (401) 456-8791 for more information

March 20
Harambee Step Explosion – Roberts Hall Auditorium; 7 p.m.; details to follow

Mission Statement

The Unity Center is Rhode Island College’s multicultural center. It promotes opportunities for exploring human dignity, social identity, and cultural equity.

The Center fosters collaborative programming among its student affiliations, faculty and the local community. It is committed to challenging stereotypes, racism, apathy, and gender discrimination. The Center’s concern is to maintain global awareness by responding to current events while preparing others to be productive citizens of the world.

The Center is also a place where students can engage their peers and faculty about what is being taught in the classroom and is a space for dialogue and discussion. We strive to preserve, bolster, and enrich students’ cultural, social, and ethnic identity.

The Unity Center is located in the Donovan Dining Center, Lower Level

(401) 456-8791
abruce@ric.edu

Aaron Bruce — Director of the Unity Center

• Born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey.

• Holds an International MBA from United States International University and a BA in economics and political science from Michigan State University.

• Held management positions in both Latin America and Africa.

• Conducted research in management and education in Cuba, Mexico and Kenya.

• Advocate for the utilization of technology in overseas study.

• Joined RIC January 2004.

• Why he chose this kind of work: “I realized my heart was in helping students as opposed to helping corporations make more money.”

• Why he came to RIC: “An excellent opportunity and a great challenge.”

• On becoming a part of the College: “People were warm, receptive, welcoming.”

• He plans to...“learn a lot more about the Rhode Island community.”
Phenomenal Females: the Women of Rhode Island College

The Normal School's first woman of color

By Marlene Lopes, Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor in the James P. Adams Library

When did the first person of color graduate from Rhode Island College? This deceptively simple question set me on a slow motion roller coaster search through the College’s archives and special collections. Along the way there were many dead ends, several mysteries, some surprises, and, at last, a plausible answer. In outlining my quest I share with you one of the lesser known stories of the College’s 150-year history.

In last summer's special Sesquicentennial edition of What’s News I identified two very early African American graduates. Rose Butler Browne, for whom Browne Residence Hall is named, was born in Boston in 1897 and received her certificate from the Normal School in 1919. Recent research has indicated that Josephine Silone Yates, another outstanding educator, predated Dr. Browne by 40 years. Originally from New York, she had been sent to live with an aunt in Newport where she became not only the first graduate of color but also the valedictorian of her class.

In 1879, fourteen years after the end of the Civil War, she received her certificate, with honors, from the Rhode Island State Normal School. Afterward she traveled west to Lincoln Institute in Jefferson, Missouri where, as its first female professor, she taught chemistry and later served as chair of its natural science department.

She earned respect as one of the best teachers in the state. During the late 19th century when African American women’s groups were routinely excluded from national women’s clubs, she gained fame as a co-founder and leader of the National Association of Colored Women, an umbrella organization for state and local clubs that strove to achieve social and educational reform and to end racial and gender discrimination.

An activist in the movement to “educate and uplift” the Negro race, she became famous as a writer and journalist. Two biographical sources proclaim that Josephine Silone Yates was probably this school’s first graduate of color. But were they correct? An Internet search under her name brought professional achievements to light, but revealed nothing about her life at the school. Was she a pioneer in breaking barriers of race or had she enrolled here because there were no barriers? Whose footsteps might she have followed, and how could I find out?

Nothing in the founding documents or recruitment literature of the Normal School indicates that race was ever a factor of enrollment. Early stu
SOLANGE "SALLY" SEVIGNY-SKYER '73

Earning a B.S in elementary education/special education from Rhode Island College may not seem that unusual, but for Sally Skyer, it certainly took a lot of determination.

Skyer is profoundly deaf. She was born that way as a result of an inherited condition on her father’s side of the family. She attended classes and completed her coursework without the benefit of support services such as language interpretation, tutoring or notetaking.

For the last 25 years, Skyer has worked as a professor and college counselor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, one of the colleges within the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Skyer was raised in Woonsocket by hearing parents. She attended mainstream schools in the Providence area, and learned to speak and lip read through the Windmill Street School’s program for deaf and hearing impaired students. She graduated with honors from Central High School in Providence, and aspired to a college degree.

“My desire to be gainfully employed as a professional, to be independent from my family, and to prove my capabilities, regardless of my deafness were the reasons for wanting to attend college,” Skyer said. Like many RIC students, she was the first person in her family to go to college.

Paul Sherlock, then head of the special education program at the College and long-time advocate for persons with disabilities, interviewed Skyer for acceptance to the College.

“While we talked, he smoked, chewed gum, turned his head sideways and mumbled to see if I was able to understand and hold a conversation with him,” she remembered.

Skyer credits Sherlock as her inspiration, saying that his encouragement forced her to persist in spite of frustrations about her communication skills and personal setbacks.

Following class lectures was her greatest challenge. “I was only able to lip read 30 to 35 percent of what my professors presented. I was too shy to ask classmates for copies of class notes,” she said. “As a voracious reader, I made up for what I missed in class discussions.”

She recalls freshman math as a “nightmare.” She passed music appreciation by rote memorizing to play Mary Had a Little Lamb on the piano. Then there were the student teaching assignments working with hearing children, which Skyer claims confirmed her desire to teach. Her evaluator was an experienced professor who initially doubted Skyer’s ability to instruct a class, but soon realized Skyer was no ordinary teacher and had a great deal to offer her students.

Despite the difficulties, Skyer appreciated not being treated differently than other students and that no exceptions were made for her deafness.

“I had to earn my grades through hard work. Today, deaf students have the benefit of sign language interpreters and note takers to make participating in class discussions possible,” she explains.

Skyer went on to earn a masters in counseling the deaf from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, and has received the Northeast USA Quota Deaf Woman Award and the International Quota Deaf Woman of the Year Award.

As a counselor, she is living proof to her students that deafness, or any disability, is not a good reason to give up on pursuing a dream.

Her students have something else in their favor – Sally Skyer to counsel them.

RIC undergrads and nurse leader
join nursing honor society

Twenty-eight Rhode Island College senior nursing students and a nurse leader were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing last December in a ceremony at the Quonset O Club in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

The new members were inducted through the honor society’s Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large.

Also, Jane Williams, chair of the nursing department at RIC, received the Louisa White Recognition Award for Nursing Leadership.

Sara Burton, a nursing student at the College, was presented an Undergraduate Scholarship Award.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurses, scholars, and researchers committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science. The honor society, founded at Indiana University in 1922, currently has chapters at more than 523 college and university campuses worldwide.

Membership in the society is awarded to bachelors, masters, and doctoral candidates who achieve high scholastic averages, and to graduates of nursing programs who have made outstanding leadership contributions to nursing.

Sigma Theta Tau International Inductees:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Francisco Jr.

Jack and I met the last semester of our senior year (January 2001) in the class “Psychology of Women.” Jack was one of three guys in the class! I sat behind him. We dated and married on August 2, 2003.

— Amanda J. Houle
to be educated and to teach others led her to the Normal School which was then located in Bristol.

All of the instructors were hired in 1865, making the Rhode Island Normal School one of the first American women of African descent to graduate from college. In her 37-year career at the Institute, Fanny Jackson-Coppin trained many future leaders of the state and nation. She was one of the first American women to receive a bachelor's degree.

Clementine Tweedy, on the other hand, reappeared in the 1857 register of attendance, and we learn that she came from the city of Providence. The Catalog of 1860 lists her name among the graduates. Mary E. Watson, a member of the 1854 entering class of the Rhode Island Normal School.

This investigation introduced me to some truly phenomenal women. I was awed by the caliber of these early graduates and proud that so early on, this institution had opened its doors to all.

The Rhode Island Normal School was established in 1854. Could there have been another student of color who had enrolled before Jackson's arrival in 1860? According to the Records, 1854-1863, the Rhode Island Normal School opened its doors on October 11, 1854.

The first three days were devoted to the examination of candidates by the following written and oral tests. The written and oral tests were intended to "test the intellectual ability of the candidates for the Normal School course, and their knowledge of the Common School studies, viz.: Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Geography, Mental Arithmetic and Written Arithmetic." In the written portion, 10 questions were asked on each subject except reading, and five points were awarded for each correct answer. The oral exam required the "acts in recitation and explanation and their quickness of perception, as well as their accuracy in recitation with the various school subjects."

In general, those who ranked low on the written part performed well on the oral portion and "gave such satisfactory evidence of proficiency and intellectual ability" that they were admitted without hesitation. In total, 23 applicants were accepted for the first term. At the end of the examination committee concluded, however, that the two remaining applicants, "both colored persons," were "manifestly in need of further training." Acting on the advice of these instructors, Mary L. Office and Clementine Tweedy withdrew their applications.

In the written exam, Tweedy scored higher on the arithmetic test than the average test taker and 21 points higher than the lowest; Office scored nine points below the lowest. Knowing nothing about the curriculum at the Rhode Island Normal School and the fact that Office and Tweedy makes it impossible to judge the accuracy or fairness of their evaluation.

We can only speculate on whether or not these written and oral tests were fair, or an objective test, and whether their results were indicative of intelligence or the ability to achieve success as a teacher.

Details in the records reveal that students entered the Normal School at different levels of maturity, some at the minimum age of 15 and others were in their 20s. Most were single, but a few were married. Several were experienced teachers when they arrived; others dropped out of school when they were offered positions as teachers. In any case, the records say nothing about the intellectual ability of the students.

Clementine Tweedy, on the other hand, reappeared in the 1857 register of attendance, and we learn that she came from the city of Providence. The Catalog of 1860 lists her name among the graduates.

Mary E. Watson, a member of the 1854 entering class of the Rhode Island Normal School.

This investigation introduced me to some truly phenomenal women. I was awed by the caliber of these early graduates and proud that so early on, this institution had opened its doors to all.

Female students greatly outnumbered males during the early years of Rhode Island Normal School. (They still do today). The first entering class, consisted of 23 females and four males. However, I recalled reading a list of first year graduates that ended with the phrase "and one colored man."

Among the treasures in the archives is an oversized bound book, entitled Rhode Island Normal School: 1854-1892. Created as part of Rhode Island's exhibition at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, this artifact chronicles the history of the Normal School through original documents, beautifully handwritten explicationary pages, and pristine photographs of classrooms and portrait rows. One of the most striking features of this scrapbook is the care with which the history was compiled.

One unphotographed, depicting one of the faculty members, beautifully written handwritten explanatory pages, and pristine photographs of classrooms and portrait rows was one of the many men of darker facial appearance.

The phrase "and one colored man?" With the exception of this mystery man, I was able to use the nearly text and labeled portraits to attach a name and status designation to each person in the photograph. With a magnifying glass I searched for his face in other group shots. Returning to the beginning of the scrapbook, I carefully studied each page for clues to his identity. Finally, on the last page, I came upon the portrait of a man of color, carefully suited and unsmiling as the other, but this time he did not wear a tie.

The date at the top is 1893, and the label underneath reads “Gross, Janitor.” Perhaps this man was also a student, as my research assistant suggested, but his name did not appear on any of the lists.

Despite our diligent efforts, however, we learned nothing more about Gross, except that the Board of Trustees voted on June 8, 1893, to increase his monthly salary to $70.00. We, in fact, uncovered no evidence of the existence of any male graduates of color during the first 100 years of the College.

The phrase “and one colored man?” that had stuck in my memory did reappear – as a red flag in our evaluation. 47 women and 6 men who had attended the first term of the Normal School of Rhode Island, and a few institute that existed from 1852 to 1854.

--- Marlene Lopes

Dr. Rose Butler Browne Award

Nomination deadline: February 27, 2004

About the Award

The Rose Butler Browne Award was established in 1976 by friends and admirers of Dr. Rose Butler Browne, a 1919 graduate of Rhode Island College, who during her lifetime demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs. The $250 Award is funded by an endowment within the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Criteria for Nominations

The recipient must be a graduating senior enrolled at Rhode Island College and who has a grade point average of 2.5 or better. Nominees are expected to have completed at least 100 hours of voluntary or paid service to a disadvantaged population during the preceding year in a community agency or activity; for example, the Urban League, a rehabilitation center, or a community recreation center.

They are expected to have demonstrated their leadership potential through effective, current performance in a leadership role and through recognition of leadership skills by their peers or supervisors. Most importantly, recipients are expected to have a commitment to developing their leadership potential.

The award will be presented at the Cap and Gown Convocation on Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

As part of the selection process, applicants are required to have a letter of reference from their immediate supervisor in order to be considered. They also are expected to complete a personal statement.

Further Information

Contact the Career Development Center, Rhode Island College, (401) 456-8031. Sharon Mazycz, Chairperson, Dr. Rose Butler Browne Award.

Black History Month 2004

Celebrate the Spirit of African Heritage at Rhode Island College

Memories of Mike Creedon, RIC grad and lifetime Hall of Famer

By Michael Christie, Athletic Media Relations Intern

IN CONTROL: Wrestler Justin Deveau gets the advantage on yet another opponent on his way to yet another super season.

She never really left his shool.

She never really left his school.

She never really left...
**Arts & Entertainment**

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### Marionettes come to life in Shakespeare production

"Shakespeare on a String" is coming to Rhode Island College March 17 at a special curtain time of 7:30 p.m., in celebration of International Women's Day. The internationally renowned Salzburg Marionettes perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

The words of Shakespeare and music of Mendelssohn combine to create an enchanting performance filled with fantasy, charm and excitement — sure to be a delight for the entire family.

The Salzburg Marionette Theater was founded in 1913, and has since become world famous through its annual performances in Salzburg, Austria and countless international tours.

Through the years, its masterful puppeteers — and their lifelike puppets — have enticed audiences with presentations of fairy tale ballets and operas.

The sophisticated marionette productions created by Salzburg provide the perfect introduction to classical works for children and adults alike.

This year’s Salzburg Marionette Theatre tour will also include performances of *Peter and the Wolf, The Magic Flute* and *The Barber of Seville.*

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### Classical performer brings ‘Romance of the Violin’ to RIC

Academy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell was an unusual adolescent. At 14 he made his professional debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and soon after that, he performed at Carnegie Hall. Now in his 30s, Bell is a grown-up classical superstar, amassing over 20 years of highly successful recording, touring, collaborating and composing.

Local fans will have the chance to sample Bell’s unique artistry when he and his accompanist Simon Mulligan appear Wednesday, March 24 in a Performing Arts Series concert made possible by a donation from College President John Nazarian.

Bell, who was born in 1967, has won numerous Grammys and his work on the film *The Red Violin* (1998) earned him an Academy Award for best soundtrack. He has played with many of the world’s leading orchestras and has recorded 27 albums.

His latest CD, *Romance of the Violin,* was released in October 2003. Claude Debussy’s *The Girl With the Flaxen Hair,* Frederick Chopin’s *Nocturne,* and Giacomo Puccini’s *O mio babbino caro* are three of the mood-setting pieces that help make *Romance of the Violin,* in the words of one reviewer, "a regal stroll through a shimmering gallery of precious, if nearly lost, meanings of the phrase."

A native of Bloomington, Indiana, Bell currently lives in New York City, where he enjoys playing tennis and practicing on his violin of choice, a 1713 "Gibson ex Huberman" Stradivarius. Last year, he received the Indiana Governor’s Art Award. Though still youthful in appearance (the says he’s often asked to show ID when ordering a cocktail), the former child phenom has continued to mature musically. Said Newsweek: "Bell has evolved from a technical whiz to a true artist and intellectual whose music feeds both your brain and your heart."

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### Keyboard Conversations® key in on Mozart

Jeffrey Siegel makes his third and final appearance this academic year Wednesday, March 3 in “There’s More to Mozart than Amadeus!” a Keyboard Conversations concert presented as part of RIC’s Performing Arts Series.

The program features the romantic side of Mozart as seen through Variations on Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, A Minor Rondo, G Minor Sonata and G Major Sonata, a combination of songs that are in turn delightful, introspective, powerfully romantic and elegant.

Also included is the Providence premiere of unpublished piano pieces by Antonio Salieri. Billed as “concerts with commentary,” Keyboard Conversations are “for anyone who loves music — or wants to love it even more.”

In each concert, Siegel attempts to deepen the audience’s understanding and enjoyment of a composition by speaking informally about it before performing the work in full. He concludes the show with a lively question-and-answer session.

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### Chamber Music Series – Two concerts warm up winter segment of Chamber Series

On February 25, Joseph Foley and the Narragansett Brass provide an afternoon of high-energy musicianship.

Foley, assistant professor of music at RIC, is also principal trumpet of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and a frequent performer with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops.

The international award-winning septet, the Afro-Rican Ensemble, takes the stage March 17, for a Latin-flavored session that offers a unique take on established jazz traditions.

This exciting ensemble has become one of the premier jazz bands in the world thanks to blistering performances at festivals, music halls, and concert series.

Recently, the Afro-Rican Ensemble has enjoyed success in the Caribbean, playing the Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival and the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival.
The Annual Spring Concert and Dance series is the most ambitious program of the season with all new repertory acquired through residencies with local, regional, and national choreographers.

Guest and resident choreographers featured in the 45th Annual Spring Concert Series on March 4-7 will include Alexandre Bella (New York), Michael Bolger (Newport), Liam Clancy '95 (Los Angeles), Sean Curran (New York), Daniel Mesker (Boston) and RIC faculty member Melody Ruffin Ward. Performed by RIC dancers in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall, this program of all new 2003/04 repertory promises an evening full of diverse and engaging dance works.

Spring premiers will include a trio by Melody Ruffin Ward and works by Alexandra Bella and Liam Clancy acquired during "winter break" residencies. The concert is offered free to the students and $10 for faculty, staff, and general public.

In celebration of RIC's Sesquicentennial and dance's 45th anniversary, student and community groups will present 12 events that take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 4-6 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 7. General admission is $10 with discounts for seniors and students.

Tickets for the Spring Concert Series are available at the Nazarian Center Box Office. For information please call Dante Del Giudice at 401-456-9791.

RIC Dance Company
— 45 and still dancing —

Spring Concert Series showcases six new works

By Dante Del Giudice, RIC Dance Director

The RIC Dance Company will appear in the 9th Annual Chester Performance Award Concert features international pianist, RI premiere

The Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra will appear in the 9th Annual Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award Concert on March 22. The program will feature internationally acclaimed pianist Frederick Moyer as a soloist in the Rhode Island premiere of David Ott's Piano Concerto No. 2. The concert is offered free to the public because of the generosity of Samuel and Esther Chester. Each season, the grant pays the soloist's fee as well as partial cost of the orchestra.

Moyer, in his over 20 years as a full-time concert pianist, has established a dedicated and unique musical career that has taken him to 41 countries and to such far-flung venues as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center.

He has appeared as piano soloist with world renowned orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston and Minnesota Orchestras, the St. Louis, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Houston, Boston, Singapore, Netherlands Radio, Latin, Iceland, and London Symphony Orchestras and the major orchestras of Australia, among others.

Moyer's 20 recordings on the historic album label, Grammaphone Records, include works by Bach, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Debussy, and Bartok. Together with his wife, the Grammy-winning violinist Merry Chase, Moyer has formed the Moyer-Chase Duo and has recorded works of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Bartok's First Concerto.

This spring, Moyer will present a free recital on March 22 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall as part of the College's Sesquicentennial celebration. The program will feature works by 20th century composers, many of whom will have premiered new works at RIC.

Moyer's playing is well known for its quality of expression, emotional depth, and musical eloquence. His understanding of the masterpieces of the masters is well recognized, and he has been praised by critics for his "brilliant" technique, "infectious" enthusiasm, "majestic" style, and "captivating" performances.

Moyer has appeared with world renowned orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston and Minnesota Orchestras, the St. Louis, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Houston, Boston, Singapore, Netherlands Radio, Latin, Iceland, and London Symphony Orchestras and the major orchestras of Australia, among others.

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Tickets for the Spring Concert Series are available at the Nazarian Center Box Office. For information please call Dante Del Giudice at 401-456-9791.

Wind Ensemble sets Dr. Seuss to music

The RIC Wind Ensemble continues its celebration of the College's Sesquicentennial year with "Green Eggs and Ham." A February 20 concert of contemporary music based on masterworks of the past. The program, led by conductor Bob Franzblau, will feature soprano performers Diana McVey and Liana Stillman.

The program is led by Robert Kapilow's "mini-opera" setting of Dr. Seuss's classic Green Eggs and Ham. On one level, this child's story is a delightful tale of Sam-I-Am, who persistently promotes his green cuisine with silly rhymes. On another level, it is a parable about a child teaching an adult to overcome prejudice. Kapilow's setting is a delight, with musical styles ranging from baroque to blues.

The concert will also include Ron Nelson's Medieval Suite, a contemporary homage to Leonin, Perotin, and Machaut. Rounding out the concert is Charles Ives's Old Home Days, a tribute to familiar melodies and homegrown music making.

Spring Choral Concerts set for March 19, set April 30

The RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers and Women's Chorus, directed by Teresa Coffman, will celebrate the College's Sesquicentennial year with their Spring Choral Concerts this season. On March 19, the works of American composers will be highlighted, including Carlisle Floyd's The Martyr, scored for chorus, piano, trumpets, percussion and piano quartet.

April 30 is the date for the premiere of Celebrations!, a work commissioned by the RIC choral area and composed by Steven Michael Remson. The text for the first movement is taken from Roger Williams' 1638 compact for a new Rhode Island plantation.
The exhibition was curated by Doug Bosch, assistant professor of art. An artist’s lecture will take place February 26 at 6 p.m. in the Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Opening reception follows.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon - 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and all are welcome to attend. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the website at www.ric.edu/Bannister or call 401-456-9765.

Gallery programming presented through the cooperation of the following agencies: The Dept. of Art Gallery Committee, the RIC Art Club, the Artist Co-op, the Performing and Fine Arts Commission, the Committee for Lectures and Films, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the E.M. Bannister Society, and the RI College Foundation.

Janice Redman’s “Sculpture” is on display at Bannister Gallery from February 27 to March 19, marking the Rhode Island debut of this Cape Cod-based artist who rescues once-functional objects, materials and images and coalesces them with wax, plaster and felt to create sculptures. Redman wields a sympathetic hand in forming her creations, infusing them with an animation that memorializes their domestic roots and amplifies psychological resonances.

Some of her works are devices that are embalmed, restrained or swaddled, then surrendered to a state of slumber; others are handled with the precision of a surgeon, with elements meticulously extracted and displayed for the viewer in the tradition of 19th-century biological specimens. Originally from England, Redman has had her work exhibited extensively throughout New England since she arrived in the United States in 1991. She received an MFA in sculpture in 1988 from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.

Utility items become objects of sculptor’s imagination

Bannister Gallery – “Sculpture” by Janice Redman

R I C a l u m g e t s b i l l i n g i n w o r l d p r e m i e r e p l a y

March 27
Music: RIC Opera Workshop* Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance Thomas Lawlor, director
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
March 29
Music: Beethoven String Quartets
Mark Strub, conductor
President’s Music Series
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall
Reserved Seating $25
March 31
Music: Mark Wood, electric violin* Chamber Music Series
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Master Class following
*Admission Free
Price discounts for students and senior citizens are available for many shows.

Box office: 401-456-8144
General information: 401-456-8194.

Call 401-621-6123 or log onto www.artixri.com


February 18 – 22
Theatre: The Birthday Party
By Harold Pinter
RIC Theatre
Directed by P. William Hutchison
8:00 p.m. February 18 – 21
2:00 p.m. February 21 – 22
Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center
General Admission $14
February 19
Dance: Rope & Awe
Rennie Harris’ Pure Movement
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating $26
February 20
Music: Green Eggs and Ham
RIC Wind Ensemble
Rob Franzblau, conductor
Diana McVey, soprano
Lauren Stillman, mezzo
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission $7
February 23
Music: Praise Ensemble Gospel Choir
7:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission $3
February 25
Music: Joseph Foley and the Narragansett Brass*
Chamber Music Series
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Discussion following
February 27 – March 19
Art: Sculpture*
Janice Redman
February 26 Artist’s Lecture 6:00 p.m.
Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center
Opening reception follows
Bannister Gallery in Roberts Hall
February 28
Theatre: Festa del Chio
Educational Center for the Arts & Sciences
7:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating $25
February 29
Music: RIC Chamber Orchestra*
with Chamber Ensembles
John Sumerlin, conductor
7:30 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
March 3
Music: Keyboard Conversations®
Jeffrey Siegel, pianist
There’s More to Mozart Than Amusals!
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Reserved Seating $25
March 4 - 7
Dance: 45th Annual Spring Concert Series
RIC Dance Company
8:00 p.m. March 4 – 6, 2:00 p.m. March 7
Auditorium in Roberts Hall
General Admission $10
March 17
Music: The Afro-Rican Ensemble*
Chamber Music Series
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Master Class following
March 17
Theatre: Stendhal Syndrome
Persevering world premiere opening night and revivals of New York City’s new 59E59 Theatre
February 26
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall
February 27
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall
Thomas Lawlor, director
Sacred Harp Singers Joined by Leonid Foglia
Along with Mudge, it includes cast members Isabella Rossellini, Richard Edson, Richard Countryman and Yul Vázquez. The theatre company in the performance is Performing Stages, resident company of 59E59’s largest theatre.
“To be a part of a new play by such an incredible playwright is something every acting student dreams of,” said Mudge. “And I’m in very good company.”

The Stendhal Syndrome is the collective title of two comedic plays about art and humankind. In Full Frontal Nudity, three disparate American tourists in Florence and their guide are immersed in the beauty of Michelangelo’s David. In Prelude & Liebestod, a renowned conductor watches his life unravel while conducting Wagner’s musical masterpiece.
“It’s a different kind of piece – very theatrical, and very touching,” Mudge said of the production. “It’s also an important things to say about art: how it affects us, how it immortalizes us, how we internalize it – very topical things, especially in today’s social and political climate.”

Mudge received her BA in theatre from RIC and her MFA through the RIC/Trinity Repertory Conservatory program. During her undergraduate career, she appeared in RIC theatre presentations of Ghosts, Amadeus, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Carousel, and Sweezy Todd. She was selected as an Irene Ryan Acting Competition candidate for the American College Theatre Festival in 1993, 1994 (placing as the first alternate to the national finals), and 1995. Mudge was a resident member of the Trinity Repertory acting company until 2000, when she moved to New York City. Since then, she has worked at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, the Director’s Company, and has appeared on the television shows Law and Order and Hack.

March 21
Theatre: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Music: Spring Choral Concert
RIC Chorus/Chamber Singers/Women’s Chorus
Teresa Coffman, conductor
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission $7
March 22
Music: Beethoven’s Fifth and Sixth
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Reserved Seating $26
March 24
Music: Joshua Bell, violin
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating $29

JANICE REDMAN, MY GOOSE, 1994, WHEELBARROW, COTTON, WAX - 4 FT. X 30 IN.
The Campaign for Rhode Island College

We are pleased to announce that alumni and friends of the College have made gifts or pledges in the amount of $21.3 million toward our goal of $25 million.

We need YOUR help to reach our goal by the end of June.

You CAN make a difference. We will be listing gifts made to the Campaign in each one of the upcoming issues of What’s News, and tracking our progress on our Campaign Meter.

Be part of this historic moment – support the Campaign.

For more information, contact mbrown@ric.edu/401-456-8440/ nhoogasian@ric.edu/ 401-456-8827/or give online – www.ric.edu

What’s News at Rhode Island College

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What’s News submissions welcome

The Office of News and Public Relations encourages members of the faculty, staff and administration to submit news stories, feature articles and department information for publication consideration in What’s News.

Send materials directly to the campus office in Building 10 on the East Campus or email to jfusco@ric.edu or rmartin@ric.edu. All materials are subject to editorial review.